





## INTIMATIONS

NOW READY

**THE CHRONICLE AND DIRECTORY FOR CHINA, JAPAN, STRAITS, &c., &c.**

**1896.**

With which is incorporated **THE CHINA DIRECTORY.**

This is the **THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL ISSUE**, and will be found, as usual, to show an advance on preceding years both in **extensiveness** and **accuracy** of information.

The **DIRECTORY** covers the whole of the ports and cities of the Far East, from **Peking to Vladivostok**, in which **European roads**.

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A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 28th May, 1896.

[22]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to **Business columns** should be addressed to **The Editor**.

Correspondents must forward their names and addresses with communications addressed to **The Editor**, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous signed communications that have already appeared in other papers will be inserted.

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Telephone Address: **Panama-A.B.C. Code.**

P.O. Box 20. Telephone No. 12.

The **Daily Press**.

Hongkong, July 24th, 1896.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN has treated the representations made to him with respect to the military contribution with great consideration, and there appears now no hope whatever of our grievance securing redress.

Had we had a Municipal Council administering a revenue raised by itself there is no doubt that such revenue would have been exempted from payment of the 17 1/2 per cent. levied on the general revenue of the colony for military contribution; in fact it would never have occurred to any one to include it, any more than in the cases of the Straits Settlements, Ceylon, or Mauritius. But in Hongkong unfortunately there is no distinction between municipal and general revenue; both go into the same account and are treated as colonial revenues, and the 17 1/2 per cent. having once been calculated on the gross sum the home Government declines now to make any rebate or to interfere in any way with the most inequitable arrangement arrived at. Had the matter been represented, as it ought to have been, when the whole question was under the consideration of the interdepartmental committee at home it is possible some concession might have been secured for the colony, but the point was not officially brought forward then, and judgment having been delivered the Colonial Office now declines to move for a re-opening of the case or variation of the decision. To do so would involve a great deal of trouble, and we suspect that that is the main reason why the officials of the Colonial Office decline to do anything in our behalf. When the Bill is brought forward in the Legislative Council making the military contribution of 17 1/2 per cent. a permanent charge on the annual revenue the unofficial members will naturally vote against it, but the measure will be carried by the official majority, and there the matter will end, for nothing more can be done. A policy of resignation, if it might otherwise have been considered desirable, would now be out of place, because the unofficial members of Council in their memorandum, instead of confining themselves to urging the exemption of municipal revenue from the mule, weighted their argument with a number of side issues which will not stand the test of examination. If they now resign on the question their action would not produce any effect in England, for the home Government would naturally direct attention to the

weak side of the case put forward, and the resignation would present itself to the impartial home reader as unreasonable.

H.E. the Governor in forwarding the memorandum to the Secretary of State has followed to a great extent the line adopted by the unofficial members, the major portion of his despatch being devoted to an argument in favour of the exemption. The whole or in part of the postal revenue, the argument could carry conviction to no one; it is mere sophistry, a splitting of hairs, and altogether unbusiness-like and impracticable. As Mr. CHAMBERLAIN remarks, most of the arguments advanced by His Excellency on this point would apply equally to several other heads of revenue, e.g., harbour receipts, court receipts, and water receipts, all of which might in one sense be regarded as reimbursements in aid of expenditure. The right hon. gentleman might have gone further and said that the arguments advanced would apply equally to revenue in general, and that if the 17 1/2 per cent. were levied only on the revenue remaining after the payment of all expenditures there would be nothing left to levy it on, for the colony's finances are not supposed to be run on the lines of a commercial undertaking seeking to show a large balance at the credit of profit and loss account. The contention that the 17 1/2 per cent. levied at all should be calculated on the gross colonial revenue strikes us as unassailable. The strong point in the colony's case is that a sharp line of distinction should be drawn between colonial revenue and municipal revenue, and it is much to be regretted that the case has been weakened by the introduction of extraneous and irrelevant matter. As to the exemption of municipal revenue, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN declines to further discuss the point and refers us to his despatch of the 26th October last. On turning to that despatch we find nothing in the shape of genuine argument. We are told that the area of the Straits Settlements is more than fifty times as great as that of Hongkong while the gross revenues are less than three times those of Hongkong, and that therefore Hongkong ought to pay on its municipal as well as its colonial revenue although in the Straits Settlements revenue is exempt, a contention in which we think the keenest intellect will fail to find a scintilla of reason or logic. In fact it is quite impossible to adduce any logical argument in favour of including municipal revenue in colonial revenue in calculating the amount of the military mule, and had the two not been amalgamated owing to our unfortunate system of government no one would ever have thought of making the former liable for the military contribution.

The reply of the Colonial Secretary to the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD's question with reference to the missing despatches on the constitutional reform question is an example of what is termed diplomatic language. Mr. WHITEHEAD asked if there was any correspondence in existence from the Colonial officials to the Home Authorities and vice versa between the 22nd August, 1894, the date of Lord Ripon's despatch, and the 29th May, 1896, the date of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN's despatch on the subject, and if so, would the Government lay it upon the table; if not, why not. The reply of the Colonial Secretary was that the Government had no further correspondence to lay upon the table, all public correspondence having already been laid. That means, as we read it, that there has been correspondence, but that it is not of a nature which it places the Government to make public, and that it is therefore to be treated as private or confidential. If there had been no correspondence or whatever Mr. LOOKHART would naturally have answered the question with a direct negative. What line of distinction is drawn between public and non-public correspondence on such a subject we do not know, but it is certain there ought to be no such distinction at all. The form in which the answer was given evades altogether Mr. WHITEHEAD's inconvincible "if not, why not?"

The C. P. steamer *Empress of India* arrived at Vancouver on Tuesday last.

Wirth's Circus opened last night. Our notice of the performance will appear to-morrow.

For maintaining illegal cockfights 10s, and 10s, Eryon, the owner of the premises was yesterday fined \$10.

There were two cases of plague yesterday; one was imported from Canton and the other came from the west end of the city.

The C. P. steamer *Empress of Japan*, from Hongkong, arrived at 8 a.m. yesterday, and left again at 6 p.m. for Shanghai.

Two sailors belonging to the *Zetes* were guilty of disorderly conduct on Wednesday night, and were yesterday fined \$8 each at the Police Court.

From the Manila *Comercio* we learn that a syndicate has been formed in Manila for the purpose of collecting and working of minerals in the Philippines.

A fire took place at Manila on the evening of the 15th inst. in the Calle de Benavides and Calle de Soler, in which seventeen houses were burnt down.

A telegram has been received by the Japanese Government announcing that M. Hirovoo, Russian Minister to Tokyo, who went home on a holiday a few months ago, has died suddenly.

It is notified by the Cable Companies that communication between Shanghai and Japan is totally interrupted by typhoon and restoration cannot be expected for three or four days.

The P. M. steamer *City of Peking*, with mails, &c., left San Francisco for this port via Honolulu, Yokohama, and Nagasaki on the 11th inst.

The N.D.L. steamer *Sachsen*, arriving the German mails with dates from Berlin of the 29th June, left Singapore on the 23rd inst., at 8 a.m., and will be expected here on or about Tuesday, the 25th inst.

According to a Tokyo press despatch, the new treaty with Germany was signed by the Japanese Emperor at the 11th inst., and immediately ratified by the Emperor.

The ratifications will be exchanged at Berlin. The provisions relating to patents and trade marks in the new treaty will be put into operation immediately after the exchange of ratifications.

His Lordship the Chief Justice was very cordially received by the gentlemen engaged in the *Martha* shooting case at the Supreme Court yesterday. He told them they could take off their wigs, and he will be taken for granted that the learned counsel at once understood the meaning of the Chief Justice's words. It is well that common sense should break through ancient legal customs during this almost universally stormy weather.

At the Police Court yesterday, before Hon. Commissioner Jackson, a Chinaman was fined for stealing a silver watch and chain from 3, Blue Buildings. The property belonged to C. H. G. Williams, and the watch was a telephone post, jumped on the watchman, and stole the watch and chain from prosecutor's clothes.

During the hearing of the action in the *Sumatra* Court yesterday Mr. T. S. Soremba (acting for the plaintiff) called an acting sergeant interpreter (Chinese) who was called as a witness, and through a door and listening to the evidence. His Lordship at once sharply called the officer inside and the prompt order he right away to the Acting Captain Superintendent of Police.

The intense heat has been getting and has lately. Several deaths have been laid to the account of the high temperature. Early yesterday morning Francis Dwyer, a half-breed attached to the Supreme Court, died of the heat. He was expected to die yesterday and was at work up to yesterday morning. There was no doubt that he succumbed to the heat. He was formerly in the Naval Yard Police.

We learn from the *Kuwan Shoggo Nippo* that the Nippon Yusen Kaisha has appointed between Kobe and Vladivostok, and the *Higuma* on the Kobe-Vladivostok line. Mr. Yoshimaru on the Kobe-Vladivostok line. The *Higuma* was appointed to the command of the *Higuma* steamer going abroad. One reason for this is that the feeling of the Japanese towards the Russian towards the steamer did not seem to be satisfactory when commanded by an Englishman. *Kobe Chronicle*.

A Tokyo press despatch of the 13th July says:—It is expected that the Treaty of Commerce between Japan and China will be signed in the near future. The plenipotentiaries have disagreed in their interpretation of the clauses in the Sino-Japanese Treaty relating to manufacturing in China, and the Japanese plenipotentiary has insisted on the right to withdraw the subject, as discussion of the question would be a waste of time. The plenipotentiaries have insisted on the right to withdraw the subject, as discussion of the question would be a waste of time. The plenipotentiaries have insisted on the right to withdraw the subject, as discussion of the question would be a waste of time.

The members of the Finance Committee had to be reminded of their duty by the Chairman at the meeting of the meeting there was only one "aye." The Chairman announced: "One aye, no noes, the ayes have it." On the occasion of a vote we heard when the motion was put. "No noes and no noes, gentlemen." Mr. Lookhart remarked quite patently. This mild remonstrance brought forth two hoarse "ayes," but the members suddenly thought they ought to say something and there was quite a loud chorus of "ayes" which was quite startling. The Chairman, however, said: "The ayes are usually taken as 'having it' unless a division is called for."

## TYPHOON AT SHANGHAI.

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO "DAILY PRESS.")

SHANGHAI, 23rd July.

A typhoon was experienced here this morning. Some native houses and a number of trees were blown down. No damage is reported as yet.

## REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

(SUPPLIED TO "DAILY PRESS.")

LONDON, 23rd July.

**MATABELELAND.** Sir P. Carrington with a strong force attacked the Matabele stronghold in the Mopopo hills. After a fierce resistance, the position was carried. Sixty of the enemy were killed. The British losses were three killed and eleven wounded.

## THE OUTBREAK IN CRETE.

Fighting has been resumed in the vicinity of Candia and Candia. British and French warships have arrived at Iraklion (Heraklia).

## [FROM THE MANILA "COMERCIO"]

FOREIGNERS IN CUBA.

MADRID, 15th July.

In compliance with a decree issued by General Weyler, a register for foreigners has been established Havana. After the 15th August no foreigner not inscribed in the register will be permitted to enter the city.

The American Consul in Cuba, Mr. Lee, has presented a protest against the decree. The Cuban Government has replied that the decree will be maintained.

## THE POPE AND THE FREEMASONS.

MADRID, 16th July.

His Holiness the Pope has started an Anti-Masonic League.

## JAPAN TIDAL WATER LIFT FUND.

Subscriptions already acknowledged \$3,645.

Mr. J. M. Armstrong 10

10 10

33,665

## SUPREME COURT.

23rd July.

**IN CRIMINAL SESSIONS.**

BEFORE HIS HONOUR DR. CAMERON (Chief Justice).

**THE "MARITIME" SHOOTING CASE.**

Peter Gruenwald, second engineer on the German steamer *Martha*, was charged on a complaint of the German Consul at Manila with the murder of a German sailor on board the *Martha* on the 25th May last, and that he did assault the same man, thereby occasioning his actual bodily harm.

The following jury was empanelled to try the case:—Messrs. J. Taylor, W. Ross, W. H. Fokke, T. Arnold, F. G. H. Hancock, J. N. M. M. O'Donnell, and J. O'Donnell.

Hon. H. E. Pollock (Acting Attorney General), instructed by Mr. A. B. Johnson (Crown Solicitor), prosecuted, and the defendant was defended by Messrs. J. Taylor, W. Ross, and J. O'Donnell.

In opening the case for the prosecution the Acting Attorney General said the prisoner was charged with the murder of a German sailor on board the *Martha* on the 25th May last, and that he did assault the same man, thereby occasioning his actual bodily harm.

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also to report to the Customs officer the coming and going of the passengers. The statistics mentioned below may be interesting, revealing as they do, the way in which junks have been treated at the ports of the Customs. Number of junks entered into the ports of Hongkong, since 23rd February last (their charges strictly examined and duties thereon paid). 315

Number of junks cleared during the same period. 318

Cases of confinement from Chinese who violated the regulations at the ports of Hongkong (including 6 cases of opium) 80

Arresting (all cases being opium) 5

Two more cases of junks being detained at the ports of Hongkong, since 23rd February last, have been reported to the Customs officer.

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